

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

[0027] With reference to Figures 1-3, the piston skirt 20 includes an outer circumference having a major thrust side 28 and a minor thrust side 30 formed substantially opposite each other on the outer circumference of skirt 20. The piston 10, and more particularly the skirt 20, is adapted for relative sliding motion with respect to a cylinder 12. A connecting rod 32 is adapted to interconnect the piston 10 and a crankshaft (not shown, but generally known in the art). The connecting rod 32 is fastened to the crankshaft using bolts 36. The connecting rod 32 also includes a bore 34 located at one end thereof. A piston pin ~~[[36]]~~ 26 is operatively received through the aligned pin bore 24 in the piston 10 and the bore 34 extending through the connecting rod 32.

[0032] As shown in Figures 1-2, the coating 40 includes a plurality of recesses, generally indicated at 42, that define a predetermined pattern on the surface of a piston skirt 20. The recesses 42 may define any number of predetermined patterns, including grooved patterns, for directing lubrication or a series of individual recesses for retaining lubrication as will be explained in greater detail with reference to the embodiments illustrated in the figures. In any event, with reference to Figure 2a, ~~recesses 42 include~~ the coating 40 includes a surface area 44 for engaging the cylinder wall 38 of an internal combustion engine 14 ~~as well as~~ and the recesses 42 include sides 46 for defining pathways for the lubricant (not shown).